

From: Rick Sipin
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:44am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Department of Justice,

I'm writing to comment on my negative opinion of the Proposed Final Judgement to the Microsoft Anit-trust case. Specifically, the judgement seems to be completely oriented towards Microsoft's licensing practices with third party (OEM and the like) vendors, and does nothing to prevent Microsoft from completely circumventing the judgement by their licencing practices with the end users. Specifically current Microsoft volume licensing policies, require that once subscribed to their new licensing structure that no contracts may be entered into that allow an end user to install or use competing software from what Microsoft offers. Now I may not be taking the language straight from the horses mouth, but according to many sources, including CIO magazine (see attached link below), this is their current licensing practice. In my opinion, this is in response to the DOJ settlement, and appears to be done by Microsoft to continue their unfair and monopolistic practices. As a software developer, systems designer and integrator, my business will be under significant additional stress from this kind of monopolistic practices, if Microsoft is allowed to continue to put undue, and in my opinion, illegal pressure on it's end users to use no products which compete with their own. Clearly, in my mind, Microsoft wishes to work in an environment where the only choices are Microsoft, or nothing at all.

I would like to see a settlement which specifically addresses this kind of anit-competitive practice, and which does something more tangible that what the current proposed settlement offers, to enforce fair competitive practices, and penalize Microsoft for failing to comply with these terms.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Rick Sipin - Owner
Thinking Edge Design
2575 S Lafayette St
Denver, CO 80210

<http://www.thinkingedge.com>
rsipin@thinkingedge.com
(303) 282-8427

Link to CIO Magazine reference of 15 Jan 2002:
<http://www.cio.com/archive/011502/meter.html>

